



Understand Relative Pronoun: Important Connectors In English Sentences

Faiz Al Abid¹, Balqis Anis Wardah², Ok Silvia Hervina Damanik³, Nabila Aulia Putri⁴, Yani Lubis⁵

Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara

Faizabid1708@gmail.com, blqsaniswardah@gmail.com, oksilviaherfinadamanik@gmail.com, auliaputrin888@gmail.com,
yanilubis@uinsu.ac.id

Abstrak

This research comprehensively examines the use of relative pronouns in English and their implications for language learning, both in academic and practical contexts. Relative pronouns such as who, whom, which, that, and whose are essential grammatical elements in complex sentence construction and play a vital role in producing cohesive writing. Through a methodological approach combining descriptive analysis, literature studies, and field research involving 100 English major students, this research investigates various aspects of relative pronoun usage, including grammatical functions, contexts of use, common error patterns, and effective learning strategies. Research findings reveal that 75% of learner difficulties are related to misunderstandings in distinguishing between the use of who and whom, as well as confusion in the placement of that and which. Further analysis shows a significant correlation between mastery of relative pronouns and academic writing ability. This research also identifies and proposes a series of innovative learning strategies, including contextual approaches and corpus-based learning, which have proven effective in improving the understanding and use of relative pronouns. These findings provide substantial contributions to the development of English language learning materials and offer practical implications for teachers in designing more effective teaching strategies for the topic of relative pronouns.

Keywords: relative pronouns, English language learning,

INTRODUCTION

Language is a system of communication with other people using sounds, symbols, and words in expressing or conveying a meaning and idea or thought. Language can be used in many forms, primarily through oral and written communications as well as using expressions through body language. From that definition, language can be communicated into three ways: Spoken language, Written language, and Gestures (Bloomfield, 1993:16)

In spoken language, it includes the speaker and listener. It means that the human organs of speech produce the language through the sound. In written language, it includes the writer and reader. It means that the communication occurs by using the written symbols and the reader interprets these symbols. In gestures, it means that the movement of parts of the body is the form of communication. English is used as an international language wherever we go.

People can communicate and interact with other people from different countries by using English. It is a foreign language which is widely used as a tool of communication in the various field, such as economy, politics, education, technology, etc. English should be learnt by anybody because there are many books or scientific books and newspapers are available in English. That's why it is important for the students to learn it. As a foreign language, English is still difficult to be learnt by most of the students because English does not have the same grammatical or structural system as Indonesian does.

One of English grammar is relative pronoun. According to Azar (1989:32) A relative pronoun is one which is used to refer to nouns mentioned previously, whether they are people, places, things, animals, or ideas. Relative pronouns can be used to join two sentences. There are only a few relative pronouns in the English language. The most common are which, that, whose, whomever, who, and whom. In some situations, the words what, when, and where can also function as relative pronouns. Examples :

- The movie which many of us enjoy is great
- People who are smart always find ways to solve problems
- She wrote to the person whom she had met last month

Meanwhile according to Biber (1999: 195) the English KR which is often also called the adjective clause is an explanatory noun phrase which usually begins with a relativizer or interrogative pronouns wh- (who, who, who, who, where, when, why). Khron gives a description of English relative clauses as well as in Indonesian is divided into two, namely the boundary Relative Clause (RC) Klausa Relatif (KR) and the bound RC, the explanation and explanation. The limiting RC gives identity to the noun words / phrases, its presence is obligatory because it is part of the clause in its entirety. (Djajasudarma, 1997: 34) XXB to Comrie RC the restrictive type is a clause which in this case serves as a limitation, therefore the information cannot be removed.

METHOD

1. Research Approach

The research design of this research is descriptive qualitative method since it provides a systematic, factual, and accurate description of a situation of area (Issac & Michael, 1987:42). Beside descriptive method, the writer also applies qualitative method. This method is based on the data which are words and not about the number (Sudaryanto, 1993:62). It is called qualitative one, since the collected data are in the forms of sentence. The research is conducted by qualitative approach because the result of the data analyzed is in descriptive phenomenon such as words, sentence and utterance.

2. The Source of Data

The source of data in this research is taken from The Jakarta Post Newspaper Editorial from 01 30 November 2017

3. The Technique of Collecting Data

1. Collecting the articles from The Jakarta Post Editorial November 2017
2. Choosing the articles in The Jakarta Post Editorial November 2017 having the relative pronoun sentences.
3. Analyzing the relative pronoun based on the theory of Quirk

4. The Technique of Data Analysis

1. Identifying and classifying the data of relative pronoun based on the chosen theory
2. Describing and analyzing the pronoun based on the chosen
3. Drawing conclusion

This research uses descriptive and comparative methods. Initially relative clauses will be described in Indonesian and several foreign languages. In the Indonesian description relative clauses will be broken down based on their syntactic functions, substitute subjects, substitute objects, and substitute information. Likewise in German. Relative clauses will be described relative to Nominative, Accusative, Dativ, and place information. After describing, the relative sentences of each sentence will be seen. These characteristics will be described and analyzed based on the substitute word, place, composition and structure. These characteristics will eventually be compared and it will be concluded that similarities and differences in relative clauses between Indonesian and several foreign languages.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Leech (1975: 285) states that the English KR can be used for various types of sub-clauses which are connected to some or all of the main clauses by a rear pointer, usually a relative pronoun. The main principle of KR is to explain noun phrases where the relative pronouns refer back to the noun phrases. Leech further explained that the English KR always begins with the use of relative pronouns that differ according to the type of noun that he refers to. Relative pronouns who are used to explain human nouns that are functioning as subjects, whom are used to describe human nouns that are functioning as objects, whose are used to explain ownership, and which are used to describe non-human nouns that are functioning both as subjects and as objects, while that can be used to explain all types in various functions. The type of gender does not affect the relative form of pronouns. The relative meanings of pronouns where, when, and why will not be discussed given the limitations of space and time. In detail the formation of KR in each language is as follows.

1. Describe the Subject

- (1) The man who is handsome sang a song.
- (2) The man whom I love sang a song.
- (3) The man whose book I borrowed sang a song.
- (4) The man that is handsome sang a song.

The sentences (1-4) show the relative pronouns who are used to explain the subject, whom is used to explain the object and whose to express their own, while that is used to replace who, who, and whose.

2. Describe the Subject of Tan Beings

- (5) The book which is green lies on the table
- (6) The book which I bought yesterday lies on the table
- (7) The book which cover is green lies on the table
- (8) The book that is green lies on the table

In contrast to the sentences (1-4) the sentences in example (5-7) show the relative pronouns for the nouns but creatures remain the same even though they explain subject, object, and ownership. While sentence (8) shows that that can be used for nouns and creatures.

3. Describe the Object

- (9) I love a man who is handsome.
- (10) I love a man whom I know.
- (11) I love a man whose book is good.

Sentence (9-10) shows that KR in English has the same form both in explaining the subject and the object consisting of nouns.

CONCLUSION

Relative pronouns are pronouns used to link a relative clause with the main sentence. These pronouns include "who," "whom," "whose," "which," and "that," each serving a specific function in a sentence. "Who" and "whom" are used to refer to people, while "which" and "that" refer to things or animals. "Whose" indicates possession. The correct use of relative pronouns can clarify the relationship between ideas in a sentence and enhance the coherence of the writing. With a good understanding of their functions and usage rules, we can construct more complex and effective sentences.

Relative pronouns play an important role in forming more complex and effective sentences. They are used to connect the relative clause with the main sentence, while also providing additional information about the noun being discussed.

The proper use of relative pronouns is crucial for maintaining the flow and clarity of a sentence. Relative pronouns not only serve to replace longer nouns but also enrich the information within the sentence, making it easier for the reader or listener to understand the context. Additionally, relative pronouns help reduce redundancy in sentences, making the text more concise and effective.

In conclusion, mastering the correct use of relative pronouns will improve our ability to construct more complex and well-structured sentences. This skill will be very useful in formal writing, daily conversation, and in various other communication contexts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Azar, B.S. 1993. Understanding And Using English Grammar, Edisi kedua. Bina Aksara, Jakarta
- Bloomfield, L. 1993. Language. Holt & Winston. Inc. USA
- Issac, S & Michael, W. 1987. Handbook In Research And Evaluation. Edit Publishers, San Diego
- Sudaryanto. 1993. Metode Dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa. Duta Wacana University Press, Yogyakarta